

Vermont Community Broadband Board
Unapproved Governing Board Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2021
Christine Hallquist
Executive Director
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10:01 am – meeting opened. Agenda Review. Motion to accept agenda, Holly Groschner motioned to accept, Brian Otley second – Motion passed

Ground rules established for meetings. Expect all Board members to be present. Start on time, end on time. Public input will be limited to 3 minutes each, with additional time allowed if meeting is ahead of schedule. Patty Richards disclosed possible conflict of interest with her role in Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) and the project WEC is pursuing with 3 CUD's.

10:05 am - Board members introduced themselves in the following order, Patty Richards, Dan Nelson, Brian Otley, Holly Groschner and Laura Sibilia

10:15 am - Staff introduced themselves, Rob Fish and then Christine Hallquist

10:20 am – Overview of staff needs was discussed. Email for Board will be available in two weeks

10:24 am – Vice chair election. Dan Nelson and Laura Sibilia were nominated. Laura declined due to time constraints. Dan agreed to serve. Brian motioned to support Dan's nomination; Holly seconded. Motion passed.

10:30 am – Christine Hallquist presented core objectives with a priority on Pre-construction grants to enable detailed design. A discussion ensued about base-line data to be use for grant decisions as well as what kind of design standards were going to be set. Board requested more time for deliberation at next scheduled meeting.

11:00am – Agenda discussed for next meeting. The decision was made to have Patty Richards send the proposed agenda items to Staff with staff developing the Agenda for an August 10 meeting starting at 8:30am with a proposed duration of four hours. Meetings are proposed to be held every two weeks.

11:05 am – public input

- Chris Recchia – Offered help and offered comments on design
- Evan Carlson – Recommended consideration of centralized purchasing of key and long-lead time items
- Jonathan Baker – Expressed concerns around affordability
- Sean Kaio – Focus on workforce development

- Chris Campbell – Suggested working closely with electric utilities
- Jane Campbell – Focus on strengths, what can VCUDA do along with VCBB?
- Steve Whittaker – requested that the term “essential” be used versus “critical”
Critical Infrastructure is an industry term used by the electric utilities, focus on workforce training, support wireless towers
- Irv Thomae – Concerned about standard designs being imposed across the state

11:30 am – Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

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